

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
*Go and tell John
what you hear and see*

Saint John Neumann Church

12/14/2025

601 East Delp Road * Lancaster, PA 17601

phone: (717) 569-8531 * www.sjnlancaster.org

Parish Office Hours

Mon. ~ Thurs. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed Fridays

Sunday Masses

Sat. Vigil ~ 4 p.m.

Sun. ~ 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m.

Reconciliation

Thurs. ~ 4:30-5:45 p.m.

Sat. ~ 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Or by appointment

Live Streamed Masses

Daily ~ 9 a.m.

Sat. ~ 4 p.m., Sun. ~ 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

Weekday Masses

Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. ~ 9 a.m.

Thurs. ~ 9 a.m., 6 p.m.

Adoration

Wed. ~ 12-4 p.m.

Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:45 p.m.

Thurs. ~ 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Very Reverend Daniel F. X. Powell, V.F.

Pastor ~ frdan@sjnlancaster.org

Reverend Clark Stiteler

Parochial Vicar ~ frstiteler@sjnlancaster.org

Reverend Michael Culkin - Substitute Priest

Deacon Peter Jupin ~ Permanent Deacon

pjupin@sjnlancaster.org

Deacon Michael Oles ~ Permanent Deacon

moles5@comcast.net

Tom Conner ~ Parish Manager

tconner@sjnlancaster.org

Kim Mikulski ~ Parish Secretary

kmikulski@sjnlancaster.org

Linda Gowarty

Youth Protection, Administrative Staff

lgowarty@sjnlancaster.org

Tonianne Bertel ~ Parish Health Ministry

tbertel@sjnlancaster.org

Kurt Kehler

Music Coordinator ~ kmk@pa.net

Nate Gulya

Director of Religious Education (DRE)

ngulya@sjnlancaster.org

Erin Houser ~ Assistant to the DRE

ehouser@sjnlancaster.org

Udoka Ugoagwu - Youth Ministry

YouthMinistry@sjnlancaster.org

St. John Neumann Catholic School

(717) 844-6100

Karen Henry ~ Principal

henryka@sjnschoollancaster.org

Lancaster Catholic High School

(717) 509-0315

President ~ Kyla (Morrison) Hockley '96

khockley@lchsytes.org

Principal ~ Sean Van Eman

svaneman@lchsytes.org

©Diocesan



@padredanny



Dan Powell



SJNLancaster



@Fr_Dan_Powell



download myParish app - select our Parish after opening

Sacrament of Baptism

Parishioners who would like to have their child baptized at SJN are asked to go to the "How Do I" tab on our website to personally schedule a date.

Baptisms are held on Sundays at 1:00 pm and Saturdays by request. At least one sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, age 16 or older, Confirmed, and must present a sponsor certificate if from another parish. A Baptism class is required if you have not completed one already. More information available on the website.

Counseling Services Available

Counseling services are now available at St. John Neumann by Kathy Birmingham, L.C.S.W. for a free-will offering. If you are interested in hearing more about this opportunity or would like to schedule a time, please call Kathy at (717) 397-8647.

Are you planning a trip? Check out FindAMass.org and masstimes.org. With these tools, you can easily locate the most up-to-date Mass and sacrament times, as well as Catholic Church locations across the United States.

Mass Intentions

Sat., December 13

- 4:00 p.m. - Mary Ann Bozym

Sun., December 14

- 7:30 a.m. - Joann Driggers
- 9:00 a.m. - Henry Roberts
- 11:00 a.m. - Steve Gaydosz
- 5:00 p.m. - People of the Parish

Mon., December 15

- 9:00 a.m. - Jimmy Smallwood

Tues., December 16

- 9:00 a.m. - James "Jim" Richardson

Wed., December 17

- 9:00 a.m. - Mary Munster
- Landis - Mark Z. Hanlon, Jr.

Thurs., December 18

- 9:00 a.m. - Special Intention for Bob & Suzanne Cybulski
- 6:00 p.m. - Joseph J. Doyle

Fri., December 19

- 9:00 a.m. - Darlene E. Ferretti

Sat., December 20

- 4:00 p.m. - Philip Dorofee

Sun., December 21

- 7:30 a.m. - Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Madonna
- 9:00 a.m. - Larry Zielinski
- 11:00 a.m. - Mike Riley
- 5:00 p.m. - Rosa Sarmiento

Parish Events

Sun., December 14

- Following all morning Masses - Coffee & Donuts being hosted by Knights of Columbus
- 10 a.m. - OCIA - Youth Room
- 10 a.m. - Faith Formation Family Meeting - Education Center
- 12 p.m. - Confirmation Prep - Education Center
- 1 p.m. - Secular Franciscan Order Gathering - Social Hall
- 6 p.m. - Youth Ministry - Youth Room

Mon., December 15

- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- 9:30 a.m.~12 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Ministry - Conference Room
- 9:45~11:30 a.m. - Spiritual Support Group - Youth Room
- 5:30~6:45 p.m. - Youth Choir - Church
- 6~7:30 p.m. - Walking With Purpose - Social Hall
- 7~8:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal - Church

Tues., December 16

- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- 1 p.m. - St. Anne-Neumann Seniors - Social Hall
- 4:15 p.m. - CGS - Atrium
- 6:30 p.m. - Divine Mercy Cenacle - Social Hall
- 7 p.m. - Baptism Class - Library

Wed., December 17

- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- 12 p.m. - Adoration with Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:45 p.m.
- 4:15 p.m. - CGS - Atrium

Thurs., December 18

- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- 4:15 p.m. - CGS Level I - Atrium
- 4:15 p.m. - CGS Level II - School Atrium
- NO Confessions
- NO Adoration
- 7 p.m. - Advent Penance Service

Fri., December 19

- 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study - Library
- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- 9:30 a.m. - Divine Mercy Chaplet - Church

Sat., December 20

- 9:30~10:45 a.m. - CGS - Atrium
- 2:00~3:30 p.m. - Confessions

Sun., December 21

- Following all morning Masses - Coffee & Donuts being hosted by St. Vincent de Paul Society
- 6~8:30 p.m. - Youth Ministry - Youth Room



The Altar Flowers for the week of:
December 13-19, 2025
in memory of Joe, Judy & Michael Baidy.

Collection

December 7, 2025

Sunday Envelopes and ParishSoft \$26,034.65

Each parish in the diocese operates as an independent Charitable Trust. Contributions provided to our parish are used solely for the operation of our parish and its missions.



If you are interested in enrolling in ParishSoft Giving, please visit our webpage and click on the Donate Now Tab or scan this QR Code. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Gowarty at 717-569-8531.



Thank you for your generosity!

2025 Diocesan Annual Campaign

Pilgrims of Hope

Goal \$ 223,042
Total Pledged to Date \$ 194,442
Total Cash Received to Date \$ 194,332
Outstanding Goal Balance \$ 28,710

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us in moving closer to our goal. Any money outstanding as of January 31, 2026, we must pay to the Diocese. If we raise money above our goal, it comes back to be used in our parish. If you have not yet made a donation, please consider making one today.



Please remember our neighbors in need. Help us to help them.



You can now use our new website for donations. Use the QR code or go to www.sinconfsvdp.org and click on the **DONATE** button in the upper left corner.

Thank you.

Vocations Corner

Adoration for Vocations to the Priesthood
every Thursday 6:30~7:30pm

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)



"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:2-3)

John's question invites us to seek Christ's presence in our lives. If you feel a spark of joy in serving others, God might be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life, sharing His healing love as a shepherd. Listen closely to His voice. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (717) 657-4804 ext. 282 or via email: vocations@hbgdiocese.org

2025 Retirement Fund for Religious

Second Collection - This Weekend

They gave their lives in service—now they need your help. For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care and dignity they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation—it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.



Oplatki Christmas Wafers

We have a limited supply of wafer packets available in the Parish Office for a free will offering. Please call the office if you would like to get your wafers now.

BECOME A KNIGHT

Are you a practicing Catholic man over the age of 18? As we continue to celebrate Blessed Michael McGivney's beatification, online membership with the Knights of Columbus is free when you use the promo code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY. Join today!



Daily Readings for Dec 15-20, 2025

Monday

Num 24: 2-7, 15-17a
Ps 25:4-5ab; 6 and 7bc, 8-9
Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13
Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 & 23
Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday

Gen 49:2, 8-10
Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17
Mt 1:1-17

Thursday

Jer 23:5-8
Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19
Mt 1:18-25

Friday

Jdg 13:2-7, 24-25a
Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17
Lk 1:5-25

Saturday

Is 7:10-14
Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
Lk 1:26-38

Readings for Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Hymns for Sunday, December 14, 2025

Entrance: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Prep of the Gifts: Maranatha

Communion: Come and Set Us Free

Recessional: Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates

Join US...

January 11-13, 2026

St. John Neumann's
ANNUAL FORTY HOURS
EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTIONS

Adoration

Sunday, Jan. 11
12-5, 6-7 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 12
9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 13
9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

Homilist

Fr. Thomas Meinert
Sun.-Tues. at 7 p.m.

Watch for
Adoration Sign
Up sheets in the
Narthex.



Our Christian Community Welcomes

Remy Ann Dougherty

Wren Penelope Labecki

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...



We Celebrate Life!

During the next few weeks the Church gives us ample opportunity to give our own "fiat" to life and to Celebrate Life: The Immaculate Conception, Our Lady Guadalupe, The Nativity of the Lord, the Feast of the Holy Family, Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn, International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking.

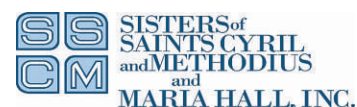
The one feast that is not on the Church calendar this year because it falls on December 28 - The Feast of the Holy Family, is The Feast of the Holy Innocents.

What a contrast ! The Church presents the Holy Family as the model and example for all Christian families where life is cherished and protected. The

Holy Innocents remind us that the killing of innocent children is an abomination to God and one of the leading causes of the breakdown of today's families.

During this Christmas season and throughout the year, may we follow Mary's example and say "yes" to life. And may we follow the example of Joseph who committed his life to protecting the lives of Mary and the Baby Jesus.

A Blessed Christmas to All !



Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community, a sponsored ministry of The Sisters of Saints Cyril & Methodius in Danville are looking to fill the following positions:

(2) Dietary Aide PT 8-hour shifts/ 6A-2P and 11A-7P, weekends and Holidays

(2) Dietary Aide PT 3-7PM, weekends and Holidays

(1) Cook PT Floating Shifts, weekends, and Holidays

(2) FT Dietary Aide/Servers

For additional information or to apply for one of these positions, please contact Alyssa Nickelson anickelson@mariajosephccc.org or Rhiannon Bronson rhiannon.bronson@oneforefront.com

Parish Health Ministry (PHM)

AWAKENED BY LIGHT: AN ADVENT JOURNEY
Weekdays will not include reflection due to limited space, Read scripture passage, reflect on quote and respond to question & prayer.

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Matthew 11:2-11 "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."

Reflection: John wasn't expecting this. He was expecting a fierce, military leader—someone who would bust some heads and make some waves. So when he sends his men to ask Jesus if He's really "the one," Jesus replies with words John likely knew well, drawn mostly from Isaiah. It's not about winning a war, John. It's about winning souls. It's about healing minds, hearts, and bodies. It's about proclaiming good news to the poor. This is the Kingdom John was sent to announce—a revolutionary idea then, maybe even more so now.
Where Did You See the Light Today? How might God be calling you to recognize the Kingdom in unexpected ways?

Whisper Prayer: Jesus, surprise me today with your quiet, healing joy.

Monday of the Third Week of Advent

Matthew 21:23-27

Where Did You See the Light Today? What part of your heart still resists giving Christ authority? What might shift if you gave him more?

Whisper-Prayer: Jesus help me yield to your authority with trust, not fear. You are gentle with power, and you use it to heal.

Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent

Matthew 21:28-32 "Which of these two did the father's will?" "By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?"

Where Did You See the Light Today? Have you ever said no to God, but found your heart drawn back toward him? Where is he calling you to follow through today?

Whisper-Prayer: Lord, give me the grace to mean what I say—and the humility to repent when I fall short.

Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent

Matthew 1:1-17 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.
Where Did You See the Light Today? Where can you trace the quiet patterns of God's presence in your life—looking back or looking around?
Whisper-Prayer: Lord, even when I feel like a small, nameless part of the story, help me trust that I matter to you.

Thursday of the Third Week of Advent

Matthew 1:18-25 When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

Where Did You See the Light Today? Have you ever obeyed without full understanding? How did God meet you in that surrender?

Whisper-Prayer: Saint Joseph, help me trust God's voice, even when it comes in silence or dreams.

Friday of the Third Week of Advent

Luke 1:5-25 Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.

Where Did You See the Light Today? What long-settled place in your life do you need God to reawaken with wonder?

Whisper-Prayer: God of the unexpected, help me believe that it's never too late for you to move.

Saturday of the Third Week of Advent

Luke 1:26-38 And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you!"

Where Did You See the Light Today? Where in my own life of faith—however quiet or unremarkable it may seem—is God preparing to shine?

Whisper Prayer: Lord, help me live a life so anchored in You that when You call me, I am ready. Make me attentive, humble, and full of grace.

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MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY SPIRITUAL SUPPORT
GROUP MEETS, TOMORROW, 12/15/25 AT 9:45AM-11AM
IN YOUTH RM

THE MHM WILL OFFER A PROGRAM ON DEMENTIA
FACILITATED BY CONNIE METZLER BSN AND CDP
(CERTIFIED DEMENTIA PROFESSIONAL)- NURSE
CASE MANAGER & PROGRAM COORDINATOR OF THE
ALZHEIMERS AND MEMORY SUPPORT PROGRAM AT
PENN MEDICINE LANCASTER GENERAL HEALTH.
WATCH THIS COLUMN FOR DATE AND TIME .

Remember the Sick of our Parish ~ Especially

Hans Deatrick, Dennis Downey, Michael Jurasinski,
Jeff Lamp, John Perozich, Linda Philbin, Dick Savicky,
Bob Sugra, John Viscardi, Bill White, Dennis
White, and all those in the Prayer Circle/Chain.





As an authentically Catholic community, we welcome and value each person's giftedness while inspiring growth in Truth, Wisdom, Faith & Virtue. We exemplify Christ's love in service to others.

This Week at SJNCS

Wednesday is the Annual SJNCS Christmas Concert! Parishioners are invited to attend our special 1 pm performance in the church. Come join us and feel the spirit of Christmas! See the invite in today's bulletin.

SJN & SJNCS

FOLLOW US DURING CONSTRUCTION

Watch the walls go up, the windows go in and the doors get set to open!

Pictures updated on the school website (sjnschoollancaster.org) or follow us on Facebook & Instagram

You are cordially invited to

'Twas One Crazy Night Before Christmas

St. John Neumann Catholic School's Annual Christmas Concert

1 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 17

St. John Neumann Catholic Church

All are Welcome!



SUNDAY KIDZ

ADVENT

C	L	K	D	L	S	R	L	S	B	V	R	E	F	X	
E	I	K	J	U	V	C	X	A	E	U	E	J	V	S	
B	F	W	K	T	F	A	B	G	V	L	R	J	O	B	Q
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G	K	M	S	G	A	D	Y	L	O	E	G	I	E	N	Z
O	Y	V	B	A	V	L	K	U	U	V	L	C	P	Q	M
O	J	L	B	B	O	E	S	R	E	C	E	H	M	E	
D	G	B	I	E	S	E	E	M	A	C	D	F	J	N	R
N	L	A	S	U	R	R	K	R	M	V	T	F	F	O	C
E	U	P	D	L	R	F	S	U	W	A	S	G	C	E	S
W	A	K	U	V	S	I	C	K	L	W	N	F	K	A	A
S	B	J	C	R	E	S	A	M	A	R	Y	U	Y	M	L
A	N	G	E	L	P	N	M	Y	A	V	H	R	E	I	Q
I	L	L	E	Y	L	L	T	B	P	N	F	T	L	L	P
S	N	Q	H	L	Y	F	E	B	X	K	D	P	J	D	L
J	E	S	U	S	I	W	R	E	A	T	H	R	D	R	G

WORDSEARCH

MARY	JOSEPH	REJOICE
ANGEL	PURPLE	SAVIOUR
JESUS	WREATH	EMMANUEL
ADVENT	BELIEVE	GOODNEWS
CANDLE		ISRAEL

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Faith Formation Spotlights

Meet Our Catechist: Fr. Stiteler

We are delighted to welcome Fr. Stiteler to the Faith Formation team at St. John Neumann Parish, where he is now teaching 7th-grade Confirmation preparation classes. As a young priest with a background as a prosecutor, Fr. Stiteler brings a unique and relatable perspective to our students, one shaped by real-world experience, deep faith, and a heart eager to serve. He often reflects on the words of St. John Paul II: *"Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure."* For him, that has proven true again and again.

Born in Carlisle and raised along the banks of the Conodoguinet Creek in Camp Hill, he grew up the youngest of three boys in a home where faith, family, and friendships were central. His childhood was filled with Sunday Mass, time outdoors, and playing plenty of team sports, especially soccer, basketball, and baseball.

Fr. Stiteler graduated from Trinity High School before attending La Salle University in Philadelphia. After working for a year, he went on to Duquesne Law School in Pittsburgh and spent more than seven years serving as an attorney and prosecutor. Yet even as he pursued law, God was preparing a different path. A profound experience of Jesus' mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation opened his heart to the possibility of the priesthood, something he had never previously considered. Each time he brought this call to prayer, he found only peace and joy.

If you would like to register your family for Faith Formation contact ngulya@sjnlancaster.org.

Last Call...



Fr. Dan is planning a mission trip to St. Francis of Assisi, our sister parish, in El Factor, Dominican Republic.

April 6-13, 2026

If you are interested, or would like more information, please email

Fr. Dan at

frdan@sjnlancaster.org.



St. John Neumann Conference

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

"Homelessness should be prevented, not just treated.

"You can prevent someone from losing the roof over their head. You can prevent the trauma that comes with an eviction - the physical and mental health impacts, the depression, the fear of what is to come, if you just help to keep them housed."

Vasila Ahmad - Policy Advisor, Office of Supervisor Sarmiento, Orange Cty., CA

The challenge the poor face is maintaining a balance between income and expenses. The slightest change, an increase in expenses or decrease in income can start them down a path which ends in eviction.

With your support we will be able to get them off that dark path.

St. John Neumann Conference

Annual Second Collection

Next Sunday December 21



SCAN FOR ONLINE DONATION

REJOICE

ANNOUNCING

ADVENT GUIDES

JOIN TODAY

www.hallow.com/parish

Type **Saint John Neumann Parish** in the search box.

Columbia Catholic Mental Health Ministry
Invites You to Join Us in Prayer

Ecumenical Blue Christmas Vigil

Friday, December 19th 6:30 p.m.,
Saint Peter's Church

Welcoming service of prayers, words and music for those
who are grieving, sad or lonely this holiday season.



**FIND STRENGTH AND SOLACE IN GOD'S LOVING
PRESENCE AS WE GATHER TO MOURN THE
LOSSES FELT IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON**

Blue Christmas is a contemplative prayer service of peace, healing and hope for anyone who is mourning a lost loved one, experiencing hurt of any kind or accompanying someone who is suffering. Whether you are feeling blue or not, this gathering service unites us together to support one another as we express the fullness of God's goodness, faithfulness and love. Come alone or invite a friend to this service where we can be there for one another.

Location:
St. Peter's Roman
Catholic Church -
121 South Second St.,
Columbia, PA 17512

Sponsored by



CCMentalHealthMinistry@gmail.com



Christmas at the Organ

*Join us for a joyful carol sing-along accompanied by
beautiful festive organ performances with the
spotlight on a hymn tune composed by the late
Nevin Fisher of Elizabethtown College!*

*Presented by the Lancaster Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists*



**Sunday, December 28, 2025
4:00 PM**

Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren
777 S. Mt. Joy Street, Elizabethtown

A free will offering taken



Columbia Catholic Mental Health Ministry

The *Columbia Catholic Mental Health Ministry*, in collaboration with Holy Trinity Catholic Church & St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, will be hosting its **Monthly Workshop on Wednesday, December 17 @ 7:00 PM at St. Peter's, 121 S. 2nd Street, Columbia, in the Social Hall** and is open to everyone in the community.

The topic of this Workshop is **Trauma Informed Care** and will feature **guest speaker Garret Book**, Lancaster Behavioral Health Hospital Patient Experience Coordinator and a Certified Trauma Professional through PESI. Garret is a 2015 graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary where he earned a Master of Divinity. At Penn State Hershey Medical Center & Children's Hospital, he completed his Chaplaincy Internship and Residency. He worked as a staff chaplain for Lancaster General Hospital, Lancaster Rehabilitation Hospital, and Lancaster Behavioral Health Hospital from 2019 to 2023, when he took his current position.

If you would like to learn more about this topic or learn more about the CCMHM and services offered (such as spiritual accompaniment) please contact the ministry at ccmentalhealthministry@gmail.com.

For non-emergency peer support in or near Columbia contact the NAMI Lancaster County Warm Line at (717) 394-215. The Warm Line is for non-crisis situations, offering peer support for mental and emotional challenges before they become severe.

If you are experiencing a mental health emergency that requires immediate attention, please contact Crisis Intervention at (717) 394-2631 or call 988 to connect you directly to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. If you prefer to text, contact the Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741 to connect with a trained crisis counselor.



THE SOLEMN CLOSING OF THE 2025 JUBILEE YEAR

DECEMBER 28, 2025
@ 9:30 AM

CATHEDRAL PARISH OF SAINT PATRICK
HARRISBURG



THE EPIPHANY ITALIAN MASS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026 AT 12:15 PM

SAINT PATRICK CATHEDRAL

212 State Street, Harrisburg

Reverend Joshua Brommer, Celebrant

Please join us for the Holy Mass

Italian reception after Mass

For information please contact:

Maria DiSanto at 717-554-5698,

disanto1@comcast.net

or Mariella Amato at 717-278-9420



2026 Men's Conference

Steadfast *in Mercy*



Featuring

Father Boniface Hicks,

OSB



April 18, 2026

Diocesan Center 4800 Union Deposit Rd. Harrisburg, PA



St. Anne-Neumann Seniors

Please join us for our Christmas Lunch on Tuesday, December 16th to be held in the Social Hall.

Sign in 12:30 p.m. in the Narthex, Lunch at 1:00 p.m. Food being catered by Pasquale's. Cost is \$22 per person.

Entertainment will be Dick Finefrock.

Reservations needed. Call Gina White at 717-569-9364 ASAP. Payment can be made at the door by cash or check made out to St. Anne/Neumann Seniors.

Old Testament prophets were not very popular. Most were killed or exiled because they challenged people to follow the commands of God. John the Baptist suffered the same way.

So what kept the prophets going?

First of all, the prophets had faith in God. They believed that God spoke through them, that God would protect them and support them. Second, they had patience. They kept going when people rejected their preaching. Some prophets had to be patient with their own weaknesses. The third gift of the prophets was hope: That by keeping God's commands, God's people would be renewed, along with all of creation. Our first reading is an example of such hope, with its descriptions of deserts becoming gardens and the sick and disabled being healed and strengthened.

So what do we learn from those prophets? First, we need to keep our faith in God strong. If you go to church once a week, the bare minimum, it would be like exercising only once a week and thinking that will keep you in shape. Second, we need patience and not just with our kids. We need to be patient with ourselves and with God. Some people stop going to church because they don't see any spiritual growth in themselves. So be patient; don't expect to become a saint right away. Finally, the reading from Isaiah gives us hope that God will open our eyes of faith, clear our ears to hear His word, (Is 35:5) and "meet him with joy and gladness" (Is 35:10).

Tom Schmidt

The Diocese of Harrisburg has a full-time opening for the combined position of weekend cook for the Priests' Retirement Residence and evening facilities maintenance staff member at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg. This is a full-time position that can be offered as two part-time roles. The Retirement Residence cook is responsible for stocking kitchen products, preparing food and cooking and serving meals, in addition to cleaning the kitchen, dining room and equipment. Weekend hours for this position are 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. The Facilities Maintenance position is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Diocesan Conference Center, Administrative Offices, Bishop's Residence and Priests' Retirement Residence. Duties include maintenance work orders, janitorial needs, setting up and cleaning up events, grounds keeping and reception desk coverage. Evening hours for this position are noon-8 p.m., with flexibility to 10 p.m. for evening events. The full job description with all responsibilities and requirements is available at

<https://www.hbgdiocese.org/careers/>. For information and to apply, contact Curtis Wilson, Campus Facilities Manager, at CWilson@hbgdiocese.org.



SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS (c. 1542-1591)

December 14

How beautiful the experience of love for God and neighbor, a fire deep within! How disheartening when love suddenly cools; and our souls grow dark, our prayer arid. How painful when misunderstanding, even rejection, comes our way, sometimes from those we least expect. For all such "seasons of the soul," an inspiring fellow-pilgrim is the poet and mystic, John of the Cross. As a young Carmelite, he was recruited by Teresa of Avila for her Discalced ("barefoot," evangelical poverty) Carmelite reform, striving to renew the Church from within after the Protestant Reformation had led countless religious away. John suffered unspeakably harsh abuse, even imprisonment, from friars who rejected this reform. Yet during these times of deepest suffering, John composed spiritual masterpieces that still guide souls to God, their titles reflecting his own painful yet ultimately victorious journey: from The Dark Night of the Soul, through The Ascent of Mount Carmel, to his Spiritual Canticle and The Living Flame of Love. John summarized his spirituality simply: "Put love where there is no love, and you will find love."

—Peter Scagnelli



Local Advent Penance Services

Throughout Advent	Our Lady of Lourdes, New Holland	Saturdays 4-4:45 p.m. & Sundays 9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sun., December 14th	St. Philip the Apostle	2 p.m.
Sun., December 14th	St. Mary's, Lancaster	6:30 p.m.
Mon., December 15th	Mary, Mother of the Church	7 p.m.
Tues., December 16th	St. Leo the Great, Lancaster	7 p.m.
Tues., December 16th	San Juan Bautista	7 p.m.
Wed., December 17th	St. Joseph, Lancaster	7 p.m.
Thurs., December 18th	St. John Neumann, Lancaster	7 p.m.
Mon., December 22nd	St. James, Lititz	7 p.m.

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Catholic Social Teaching Symposium - January 31

Registration is open! Rooted in the dignity of every human person, the Diocese of Harrisburg's inaugural Catholic Social Teaching Symposium is a day dedicated to exploring the Church's response to some of the most urgent issues of our time.

Through panels, breakout sessions, and practical discussions, participants will deepen their understanding of human dignity, solidarity, and our call to serve the common good. Together, we will reflect, learn, and discern how we can bring Christ's love into our communities through action, advocacy, and encounter.

All are welcome to register and attend. The cost is \$20 per person which includes lunch. For the complete schedule, details, and to register, please visit

<https://www.hbgdiocese.org/event/catholic-social-teaching-symposium/>

You're Invited

Advent's Journey of Hope

Experience the joyful Advent season of the coming of Christ by reflecting on the Gospels, meditating on the music, and experiencing the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. A perfect time for us to reflect on our journey as we welcome Christ into our hearts. Join us and Mark Forrest, Irish Tenor, for this evening of prayer.

Location: St. Peter Catholic Church

904 Mill Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Date: Monday, December 15, 2025 Time: 7:00 PM

Contact: Parish office 717-367-1255

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Third Sunday of Advent TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

We make transitions along life's journey, and search for meaning. Watch an infant take those first wobbly steps. Inevitably they are toward the arms of a dear one, and the gleeful smile and wordless laughter let us know that the baby understands that the whole world is renewed in an instant. Parents may see that wide-eyed smile again some years later as they flip car keys in the teenager's direction, and by God's grace at in-between moments of forgiveness and affirmation.

Sacraments open a window to the blessings of everyday life and help us claim their deep meaning. A voice from a fiery bush warned Moses to take off his shoes because he stood on "holy ground." Your first steps, your first word, taking your place at the family table, stirring to new love, forgiving and being forgiven: all of this is holy, laden with meaning, full of possibilities. Sacraments are not escape pods from the realities of the everyday; rather they invest us ever more deeply in life and recruit us for the kingdom inaugurated by Jesus. We take baby steps all our life long. In the world of sacrament, they are always directed toward the arms of a loving God, and always on the common holy ground of a community's life.

—Rev. James Field

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